

26/10/60

BOROUGH OF



RYDE, I.W.

THE 81st
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1959

including the separate Report of the

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1959
(as constituted at 21st May, 1959)

The Mayor—Councillor L. W. Lewer, D.S.O.

Councillor Ramage (<i>Chairman</i>)	Councillor Bourn
Councillor Castle (<i>Vice-Chairman</i>)	Councillor Cleaver
Alderman Evans	Councillor Colledge
Alderman Matthews	Councillor Read
Alderman Russell	Councillor Sutton
Councillor Baxter	Councillor White

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, 1959

JOHN D. RUSSELL*† M.B., B.S. (Syd.), D.P.H. (Lond.) (Office—
County Hall, Newport. Tel. Newport 2261).

35% Borough of Ryde, Sandown-Shanklin and Ventnor
U.D.C.'s. (Combined population 39,450).

65% Assistant County Medical Officer and Assistant
School Medical Officer.

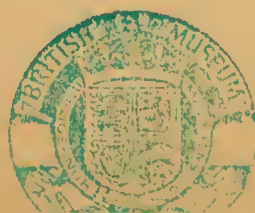
Senior Public Health Inspector S. DUNMORE,†
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector L. N. JORDAN,†
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk MISS D. G. BOYCE

*Part time Officer

†Salary contribution by Exchequer Grants



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
5 LIND STREET,
RYDE, I.W.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
Ryde Borough Council*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances for the year 1959, in accordance with the direction of the Minister of Health.

Statistics

This year we enjoyed the finest summer since the vintage year of 1947.

Vital

The number of live births (243) was 24 less than last year and the lowest figure recorded for over 10 years. This served to accentuate the expected 'holiday resort' phenomenon mentioned in last year's report.

The Death Statistics show a remarkable constancy. There was a welcome reduction on last year's figure of 11 to 5 in the number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age. The death rate of all infants per 1,000 live births (20·6) is lower than the national figure (22·2).

Two new statistical values have been added this year, they are (a) Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (first week) per 1,000 related live births and (b) Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and deaths during first week) per 1,000 total live and still births.

Causes of Death

Deaths due to coronary artery disease and lung cancer maintain last year's high figure but the local figures over the past 10 years have not shown the national trend.

Nationally, deaths from coronary heart disease continued to increase from 76,324 in 1957 and 84,041 in 1958 to 84,920 in 1959, giving an annual death rate of 1·87 per 1,000 population.

Deaths from cancer of the lung numbered 21,063, an increase of 1,243 over the 1958 figures.

Little progress was made in ascertaining the causes of coronary-artery disease. One worker showed that when the level of fats in the blood was high, the blood-flow through the coronary arteries was decreased and the removal of oxygen by the heart muscle diminished. There was strong cumulative evidence from statistical surveys of an association between coronary disease and a high consumption of animal fats. Other investigations suggested that patients with coronary heart disease did not remove fatty substances from the blood as rapidly as normal persons. Other studies indicated that the hormones, liberated by a portion of the adrenal glands in response to "stress" conditions, tend to cause an elevation of the fat levels in the blood. From personal experience there is little doubt that "stress" plays a predominant role, however this is difficult to elucidate as there is not as yet available a quantitative measure of stress.

The still-increasing incidence of cancer of the lung has been ascribed to a number of causes but it seems incontrovertible from the great weight of collateral evidence, clinical, chemical and pathological, that cigarette smoking plays a substantial part in the causation of cancer of the lung.

Deaths by accident are also increasing at an alarming rate and although there were only 7 accidental deaths in the district, we must not lose sight of the existing problem. Lord Kilmuir spoke of the number of deaths on the roads as one of the "tragic problems overshadowing the scientific and material advance of mankind". This carnage on the roads tends to obscure the fact that it claims only about one third of all accidental deaths, whereas more than 40 per cent occur in the home. On an average day, 50 people are killed accidentally in Great Britain, 21 of these in the home. The number of injuries in the home is not known, but has been estimated as between 75,000 and 100,000 serious and about one million, slight. The prevention of home accidents falls within the province of Public Health and mainly depends on Health Education.

At a general meeting on Home Accidents in September, it was suggested that this aspect of Accident Prevention be embodied by the existing Road Safety Committee within their present framework.

The chief victims of accidents in the home are the very young and the elderly, with woman forming the majority of



casualties in the three main categories—falls, poisoning and burns and scalds. Falls cause many more deaths in the home than all other forms of accident combined.

Legislation for the prevention of domestic accidents is largely impractical and is limited to The Children & Young Persons (Amendment) Act of 1952, The Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act of 1953, both of which are concerned with open fires and heating appliances, and the Fabrics (Misdescription) Act of 1913, which prohibits the sale of textile fabrics or garments described as non-inflammable, which do not conform to a prescribed standard, but it does not prohibit the sale of highly inflammable fabrics bearing no description.

As I have said the mainstay of our effort lies in Health Education.

The decline in the number of tubercular deaths in the country continues and there was only one such death in the district. That there were no deaths from diptheria in the whole country, is an unqualified endorsement of the procedure of immunisation against the disease. In 1940 in England and Wales there were 2,480 deaths due to diptheria.

I am pleased to report there was no maternal death.

Prevalence and Control of Infectious and other Diseases

By far the most prevalent disease this year has been a 24 to 48 hour illness, characterised by diarrhoea and vomiting, the one or the other predominant, highly infective and recurring, mild in all but a few cases and by its nature, self limiting. It has occurred in explosive outbreaks throughout the community, affecting young and old, residents and visitors alike. Examination of specimens in the laboratory has been consistently negative. The disease started on the mainland late in 1958. Consideration of all its manifestations would seem to label it clearly a virus disease and incidentally, non-notifiable.

Cases of measles and whooping cough seemingly determined not to conform to an expected periodicity, numbered respectively 88 and 97.

There was one outbreak of food poisoning involving 4 people which was notified too late for investigation into the cause. The Ministry has drawn attention to the danger of cooking meat, allowing it to cool, often overnight, and reheating it before serving. This is due to the presence of staphylococci in the meat before or after cooking, producing an

enterotoxin, which is a highly heat-resistant substance that can survive boiling for 30 minutes.

One case more than last year of tuberculosis was notified. Progress continues in the field of prevention with improvements in the standards of living and hygiene, with isolation of infectious cases and active measures such as vaccination (B.C.G.) but mass radiography remains the best method of finding undetected cases. Arrangements were made for a Mass Radiography Unit to visit the Island in 1960. The Chest Physician, the County Medical Officer and the District Medical Officers held a meeting on tuberculosis services at the Royal National Hospital in April and June.

No cases of poliomyelitis were notified during the year. Nationally, notifications were low and the figure of 66 deaths was the lowest since records started in 1911. That this happy state of affairs is due to vaccination is perhaps too early to conclude. In July, 1958 the Government extended the offer of vaccination to people born in the years 1933 to 1942, and to hospital and nursing home staff, medical students and their families. An intensive publicity campaign and vaccination programme was carried out on the Island from May 30th till the end of July.

Ryde Council co-operated fully and greatly due to the efforts of the County Councillor, Mr. J. A. Brazier, M.B.E., J.P., the number of registrations in response to the campaign was highest in the Borough of Ryde.

By the end of June it was estimated that 94% of children aged up to 15 years and 56% of young people aged between 15 and 26 years had been registered.

Worldwide reports confirm that protection against paralysis in the first year following two injections varies between 60 and 80 per cent. In order to achieve a higher degree of protection, a third injection, seven to twelve months after the second, is now recommended.

A butcher was one of three cases of dysentery notified and had to be suspended from work till declared free from infection. I received prompt and firm support in this matter from the Public Health Committee.

Typical of the active interest shown by the public health committee as a whole, is this anecdote:

The chairman of the committee, a pharmacist, noted a case of severe glossitis and ascribed the condition to foot and mouth disease, which was rife on the Island at the time. He

notified me of this and as a result, it was found that the man was suffering from severe diabetes mellitus, which, had it remained undetected much longer, may have had serious consequences.

During the year the County Medical Officer investigated the disease brucellosis on the Island, but his results are not, as yet, published.

Public Swimming Baths

There are no public swimming baths in the Ryde area.

Problem Families

I attended two meetings of the officers concerned in the welfare of so-called Problem Families. These families may be described as those who are unable to cope with a problem, or problems on their own and need the assistance of an outside agency.

Very often rehousing largely solves their problem and it is in this way that the Local Authority can help. It is a tribute to the Council's understanding and far-sighted policy that each and every case with urgent public health grounds for rehousing were, in fact, rehoused.

Removal of Persons in Need of Care and Attention

No action was required during the year under section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948. This, I believe, is largely attributable to the excellent work being done for old people by the County Welfare Officers, the Health Visitors, the Public Health Inspectors and members of Voluntary Organisations.

Health Education

Health education forms the very warp and woof of public health work and is an integral part of our daily affairs. As I have said our major effort this year, was the poliomyelitis vaccination campaign. Ten talks on Public Health have been given to various bodies during the year.

Mortuary Accommodation

A meeting was called on the 6th May by H.M. Coroner to discuss the present unsatisfactory mortuary accommodation.

He suggested a central mortuary maintained jointly by the Regional Hospital Board and the Local Authorities, to be built at St. Mary's Hospital, Newport. The proposal is under consideration.

Conferences and Courses

The Royal Society for the Promotion of Health held a meeting at Newport on the 5th June at which more than 120 delegates attended. Papers were read on sewage contamination of coastal waters and on static caravan sites.

In the afternoon a group visited the sewage treatment works at St. Helens.

On the 10th June I attended a one-day course on "The Catarrhal Child" in London.

New Legislation

The Ice-cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1959, and the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959, amend and consolidate previous regulations.

The Factories' Act, 1959, makes further provision as to the health, safety and welfare of workers.

The House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, relates to the new "Standard Grants", and improvement grants. Local authorities have a duty to make "standard grants", for the provision of a bath, wash-hand basin, hot water supply, water closet and satisfactory food storage in houses which lack such amenities. With certain exceptions, these provisions do not apply to houses provided after 1944. The amount of the "standard grant" is limited to one-half the cost of the works, subject to a maximum of £155 7s. 0d.

That there were only 9 Standard Grants issued during the year, may be due to the public not appreciating that it is a grant and has not to be repaid.

The Housing (Underground Rooms) Act, 1959, restores to local authorities the powers which they had under the Housing Act, 1936, to close certain insanitary basement rooms.

The Mental Health Act, 1959, makes sweeping new provisions for the care and treatment of the mentally sick, and for the management of their property and affairs.

The National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1959, makes provision for determining the local authority liable for providing Part 3 accommodation, i.e. accommodation for the aged, infirm or incapable people.

Staff

I have, with the very sincerest regret, to report the death of my clerk, Miss M. I. Martin, on the 14th November, after 2 years of illness.

Acknowledgements

I should like to thank Mr. S. Dunmore, the Senior Public Health Inspector for the smooth running of the department and for the loyalty and support he has given me.

My thanks are also due to the Assistant Public Health Inspector, Mr. L. N. Jordan for his valuable contribution.

I have also to thank the clerks Mrs. D. Nicholson, deputising for Miss Martin, and Miss D. Boyce, who have done their work so pleasantly and well.

I thank, too, my present clerk, Mr. B. Pierce, for his help in compiling this report.

Finally, it has been a pleasure to work with the Public Health Committee, and I thank them for the consideration and support they have given me.

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN D. RUSSELL

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS

(1) GENERAL

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	7,876
No. of inhabited houses according to rate books (as at 31/3/59)	...	...	...	...	6,589
Rateable value (as at 31/3/59)	...	...	...	...	£297,005
Sum represented by 1d. rate (1958/59)	...	...	...	...	£1,130
Rainfall	...	...	...	...	29·44 inches
Sunshine	...	...	...	...	1948·8 hours

(2) VITAL

Population (Registrar's Figure)	...	...	...	20,060
BIRTHS	M.	F.		
No. of live legitimate births	117	110	...	227
No. of live illegitimate births	9	7	...	16
Live birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	...	...	12·1
Comparative factor (births)	...	...	...	1·08
Comparative Birth Rate	...	...	...	13·1
Live Birth Rate England and Wales	...	...	...	16·5
Total live and still births	...	...	...	247
	M.	F.		
No. of legitimate stillbirths	1	1	...	2
No. of illegitimate stillbirths	1	1	...	2
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	...	...	...	16·1
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	...	...	...	6·6
DEATHS	M.	F.		
Total number of deaths	132	160	...	292
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	...	14·5
Comparative factor (deaths)	...	...	...	0·76
Comparative death rate	...	...	...	11·0
Death rate England and Wales	...	...	...	11·6
No. of deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year of age	M.	F.	...	5
No. of deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year of age	—	—	...	Nil
Death rate all infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	20·6
Death rate legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	22·0
Death rate illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	Nil

Statistics—*Continued*

Neo Natal Mortality Rate per 1000 live births	20·6
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	20.6
Perinatal Mortality Rate	36.4
Maternal Deaths (including abortion)	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1000 live and still births	Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH

CAUSE	MALE	FEMALE
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1 (1)	— (1)
Tuberculosis, other	— (—)	— (—)
Syphilitic disease	— (—)	— (—)
Diphtheria	— (—)	— (—)
Whooping Cough	— (—)	— (—)
Meningococcal infections	— (—)	— (—)
Acute Poliomyelitis	— (—)	— (—)
Measles	— (—)	— (—)
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1 (1)	— (—)
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	— (3)	3 (2)
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6 (5)	1 (2)
Malignant neoplasm, breast	— (1)	6 (3)
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	— (—)	4 (2)
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	10 (22)	14 (13)
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1 (—)	— (2)
Diabetes	1 (—)	— (1)
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	18 (19)	33 (29)
Coronary disease, angina	26 (22)	9 (16)
Hypertension with heart disease	2 (—)	7 (7)
Other heart disease	24 (18)	49 (40)
Other circulatory disease	6 (6)	4 (2)
Influenza	1 (—)	1 (1)
Pneumonia	8 (11)	5 (8)
Bronchitis	7 (5)	2 (6)
Other diseases of respiratory system	1 (2)	— (—)
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1 (2)	— (—)
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	— (—)	3 (1)
Nephritis and nephrosis	1 (—)	— (2)
Hyperplasia of prostate	1 (3)	— (—)
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	— (—)	— (1)

Causes of Death—*Continued.*

Congenital malformations	...	...	—	(2)	—	(2)
Other defined and ill-defined diseases			9	(7)	12	(13)
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	2	(—)	1	(—)
All other accidents	...	...	1	(4)	3	(2)
Suicide	...	...	4	(1)	3	(1)
Homicide and operations of war	...	...	—	(—)	—	(—)
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	132 (135)	160 (157)	

N.B.—Figures for 1958 are entered in brackets.

Prevalence of Infectious and other Diseases.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	11	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Acute Encephalitis (In- fective)	—	—	—
Measles	88	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	97	1	—
Ophthalmia			
Neonatorum	—	—	—
Pneumonia	4	—	—
Dysentery	3	2	—
Food Poisoning ...	4	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis			
(Paralytic)	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis			
(Non-Paralytic) ...	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	7	2	—
Tuberculosis			
(Meninges & C.N.S.)	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Other)	1	—	—
Totals ...	216	5	—

Age at Date of Notification

Age	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Malaria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Whooping Cough	Measles	Meningococcal Infection	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	Tuberculosis (Meninges & C.N.S.)	Tuberculosis (Other)	Paratyphoid fever
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under	—	—	—	—	2	—	10	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	1	—	—	—	—	—	37	38	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
10	9	—	—	—	—	—	12	4	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	11	—	—	—	4	1	97	88	—	—	3	4	—	—	—	7	—	1	—

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

Total number of outbreaks	...	...	...	1
Number of cases	...	...	...	4
Number of deaths	...	...	...	Nil

**Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases Return from
Head Teachers of Schools**

Mumps	...	...	...	5
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	39
Influenza and Influenzal Colds				289
Measles	...	...	...	23
Whooping Cough		...	...	45
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	10
Impetigo	...	...	...	1
				<hr/> 412 <hr/>

Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Acts, 1944

Number of samples taken during 1959	...	...	63
Number of samples found to be T.B. positive	...	...	1
Number of samples in which Brucella Abortus was isolated	...	...	1

Tuberculosis, 1959

AGE PERIODS				Totals	New Cases				Totals	Deaths			
					Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F				
0 and under	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
1 „ „	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
5 „ „	10	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—		
10 „ „	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
15 „ „	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
20 „ „	25	3	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—		
25 „ „	35	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
35 „ „	45	4	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
45 „ „	55	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
55 „ „	65	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—		
65 „ „	75	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
75 and over		—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—		
Total	...	*15	9	3	1	2	1	1	—	—	—		

*This total includes 7 transfers from the Mainland. In addition, 3 patients on the Tuberculosis Register died from other causes.

Table showing the number of new cases and deaths from Tuberculosis during the period 1949-1959.

<i>New Cases</i>					<i>Deaths</i>		
Pulm.			Non.-Pulm.	Total	Pulm.	Non.-Pulm.	Total
1949	...	17	7	24	7	—	7
1950	...	17	9	26	4	1	5
1951	...	19	5	24	4	—	4
1952	...	13	15	28	2	1	3
1953	...	10	9	19	2	—	2
1954	...	16	2	18	3	—	3
1955	...	4	5	9	—	1	1
1956	...	6	2	8	2	—	2
1957	...	15	1	16	—	—	—
1958	...	11	1	12	2	—	2
1959	...	12	3	15	1	—	1

Child Welfare Clinics

<i>Name of Clinic</i>	<i>Place where held</i>	<i>How often held</i>
Ryde ...	Well Street	*Every Tuesday except 2nd & 4th and every Wednesday 2.30— 4.30 p.m.
Binstead ...	The Institute	Every Tuesday, 2.30 p.m.
St. Helens ...	Lower Green Methodist Sun- day School	*Fourth Thursday, 2.30 p.m.
Seaview ...	Methodist Sunday School	*First Monday, 2.30 p.m.

**Doctor in attendance*

School Minor Ailments Clinic

<i>Name of Clinic</i>	<i>Place where held</i>	<i>How often held</i>
Ryde ...	Well Street	Every Friday, 2.30 to 4 p.m.; Doctor in atten- dance.

Factories Act, 1937.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1958, for the Borough of Ryde, in the County of the Isle of Wight.

Part I of the Act

1.—Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	13	6	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	103	38	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total ...	116	44	—	—

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) ...	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	1	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	1	—	—	—	—

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
Ryde Borough Council*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my tenth Annual Report, which is again presented by permission of the Medical Officer of Health as a separate part of his Report, and in this introduction to it I feel justified in reflecting a little on those ten years as your Senior Public Health Inspector. It is Mr. Jordan's tenth year here too as Additional Health Inspector, and Miss Boyce has also been our clerk throughout that time, and so, whereas there have been four Medical Officers during that period, no other staff changes have taken place. Our offices, on the second floor of 5 Lind Street, are reached by 52 stairs from the building's entrance, and a climb to the Department is quite a test of fitness and can be a strain for old, infirm or unwell people who have cause to make a visit—hence on occasions it is necessary for us to descend at least half way to meet a breathless caller who can climb no higher.

During the past ten years almost all public health, housing and food legislation has been amended and added to by important Acts, and the administration side of the Department's work has become much more complex. Problems associated with a steadily increasing population of ageing people comes ever more into the picture, including the problem of accidents in their homes. The ever increasing introduction of new varieties of fresh and preserved foods necessitates constant study. The elimination of unfit dwellings has largely been achieved, and attention is now turning to the modernization of houses which if brought up to date still have a long and useful life. With the decline in most major infectious diseases, work in this sphere requires less time, and, contrary to the public's popular belief, drains and sewers nowadays occupy only a very minor part of our time, a fact which I hope will be borne out when one reads on through my Report.

In commenting briefly upon details which are set out in my Report's four sections, I would say with regard to Sanitary Circumstances (Section I) that I am much disappointed that the proposed sewerage scheme for the Fishbourne

and Kitehill districts has made no material progress during the year, and the problem of cesspools and septic tanks in that area continues.

The Water Board took over the routine sampling of sources and mains supplies within the Borough from 1st April.

Housing (Section II) has shown satisfactory progress, and it has been quite a busy year. The five-year Slum Clearance programme, originally planned to be completed in 1960/61, was in fact completed before the end of the year. Following upon the Government's policy of providing financial assistance to improve existing houses where they are sound but lack certain modern facilities, much work has come the Department's way in the form of Discretionary Grants and, later, Standard Grants. There is, of course, in Ryde a great number of well-built small dwellings which are eminently suitable for modernization, and these grant aid schemes should not be missed. The Rent Act, 1957, has likewise continued to take up much time, but towards the end of the year, after being in operation for eighteen months, work concerning it was easing.

Food (Section III) has received such attention as has been possible in the time available for the purpose. When recalling that last summer was a hot one, conducive to food poisoning conditions, and that a record number of holiday-makers were staying in the area or just feeding here on their way elsewhere, it is quite remarkable that only one report of food poisoning, affecting four members of one holiday-making family, was received, and this reached us too late to identify the cause, the family having quickly recovered and returned home.

Miscellaneous (Section IV) is included for the purpose of describing several miscellaneous duties carried out by the Health Department but which are not prescribed as such in the Sanitary Officers' Regulations.

Where figures subsequently appear in brackets, they refer to the previous year.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support throughout the year and the Heads of Departments and their staffs for their co-operation. I am, of course, greatly indebted to Mr.

Jordan, my Assistant, who tackles all our problems with the greatest enthusiasm, and, finally, my thanks to Miss Boyce, the Department's clerk, who handles the varied office duties.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

STANLEY DUNMORE

Senior Public Health Inspector

Section I—Sanitary Circumstances

Complaints

427 (326) general complaints were received and dealt with during the year.

Water Supply

A completely adequate supply of pure water was maintained throughout the Borough during the year by the I.W. Water Board, and this was achieved in spite of the long, hot, dry summer and record demands by the residents and visitors—no mean success in the light of the acute water shortage experienced in many parts of the country at that time.

Up to April, I took 45 samples for bacteriological examination, after which the Board took over the duty, and they collected 54 samples. The laboratory reports were highly satisfactory and invariably indicated a high standard of purity.

Drainage

At the present time the bulk of the Borough's drainage, including the surface water, discharges through long outfalls into the sea beyond low water, where it enters the strong flowing currents of the Solent. The Council is anxious to institute complete treatment where possible prior to discharge, and already do so in respect of the St. Helens and Havenstreet areas. Similar schemes covering the Kitehill, Fishbourne and Binstead areas and the western suburbs of Ryde, have been prepared, and others will follow. The recent connection of the Fishbourne Caravan Site and the

nearby houses to the sewer has eliminated a previously recurring offensive drainage nuisance at the top of Fishbourne Lane.

Whereas the construction of drainage for new buildings is supervised by the Borough Surveyor's Department, all drainage work in connection with existing buildings is supervised by the Health Department.

We are fortunate in that most of the developed areas in the Borough are served by public sewers, and, where not, the Council's mechanical emptier is available to deal with septic tanks and cesspools, whilst the few bucket closets existing in rural areas are dealt with by the occupiers themselves.

Public Cleansing

This service is operated by the Borough Surveyor. The Borough is divided into three large and one small area, and these are given a once-weekly collection by three large-capacity vehicles and one small-capacity vehicle. In the summer a further vehicle deals with the various holiday camps operating in the area. A trade refuse service is also provided.

An estimated total of 11,650 tons of refuse was collected and dumped at the Council's refuse tip at Nettlestone. The tonnage has not greatly increased over 1958, but there has been a considerable increase in bulk and a decline in heavy refuse. To combat rat and similar vermin infestation at the tip, regular routine treatments have been carried out by the Rodent Control Officer, and fly infestation has been controlled by spraying all exposed refuse with tip dressing insecticide.

The values of salvageable materials have fallen, but as much saleable material has been recovered as has been possible to sell, resulting in £740 for waste paper and £115 for woollens and mixed metals. The Council operates a salvage incentive scheme for the collectors.

The Anti-Litter Act came into force in late 1958, and so there has now been time to observe its results, and I am of the opinion judging by the evidence of litter to be seen almost anywhere frequented by the general public, that as yet they continue to be as untidy as ever, being either entirely indifferent to the law or too lazy to place rubbish in receptacles provided for the purpose. It seems obvious that educating the public to be tidy is going to be a long term job which

might well be speeded up by more well-publicised prosecutions.

Infectious Disease

With the steady decline and disappearance of most of the well-known infectious diseases of past times, this subject does not require much comment, and we were not called upon to carry out any terminal disinfections following infectious disease. The Council's old steam disinfector is still in very fair working order, and available for use if required.

Four cases of dysentery, affecting two families on a housing estate, were fully investigated under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health. The families co-operated well in carrying out current disinfection, and the necessary specimens were collected from the infected persons until the laboratory service reported them free from infection.

During the summer there was widespread outbreaks of gastro-enteritis of short duration in the community, affecting people of all ages. These were all investigated, but various tests taken for laboratory investigation failed to identify the causal organism—it is fair to assume that the outbreaks were in some way linked with the unusually prolonged hot, dry weather.

Caravans and Camping

The same caravan and camping sites as were previously licensed continued in operation, and, especially those belonging to members of the I.W. Caravan and Camp Owners' Association, reached a very high standard of efficiency. This Association has now produced a very comprehensive and testing set of site standards which it requires its members to operate. An excellent liaison exists between the County Planning Department and myself in all matters relevant to camping.

The very good summer encouraged campers to the full, but it gave rise to few problems because camping standards have improved, which is no doubt due in some measure to the wide range of excellent camping equipment now on the market.

Annual licences issued by the Council comprised:—

Caravan and camping sites	...	...	...	6	(6)
Caravans for seasonal use (None licensed for residential use)	...	...	...	18	(20)

Swimming Pools

The only swimming-pools in the Borough are the two open air pools at Warners' Puckpool and St. Clare Holiday Camps, both of which have modern filtration and chlorination plants under the control of a very efficient operator. In addition to the routine daily chlorine tests by the operator, I took 12 samples from the pools for bacteriological tests, 11 of which were highly satisfactory. A check was carried out following one unsatisfactory sample, and the fault did not recur.

Vermin

(a) 43 (38) premises were treated to destroy insect vermin, and our general practice has been to use liquid insecticides, and, where advisable, to follow up, using residual smoke generators. Sometimes treatment has been limited to using powders applied by blower or by hand. After the hot, dry summer we received a record number of complaints of heavy infestations by flies of various species which had moved into roof spaces of houses to hibernate for the winter. Insecticidal sprays were effectively used to destroy them, and no charge for this service was made. In addition to flies, insects dealt with included bugs, fleas and cockroaches.

(b) 91 complaints of rats and mice infestation were received in the Department during the nine-months period 1st April to 31st December, the first quarter's figures having been included in my last year's report. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has now re-arranged its reports to cover the calendar year. The complaints were passed to and dealt with by the County Rodent Officer, whose report on his work for the nine months is as follows:—

Visits to:—

Council properties	...	...	...	...	24
Dwellinghouses (including Council Houses)					643
Agricultural premises	...	...	...		26
All other premises (including Business Premises)	...	...	...	...	224
Major infestations (rats) discovered			...	...	4
Minor infestations (rats) discovered			...	...	62
Minor infestations (mice) discovered			...	...	127

(c) 74 wasps' nests were destroyed.

Shops Act, 1950

There were 442 (441) shops on the register at the end of the year, the majority of which are small premises, family-owned and operated. 257 (251) inspections were made either of a routine nature or to investigate contraventions of the Act, give advice, and approve alterations.

Factories Act, 1937

Factories registered comprised 103 (105) power factories and 13 (13) non-power factories. Nearly all these are small concerns, each employing a few persons, and therefore large premises are not involved. Some attention was given to several factories which did not have Certificates of Means of Escape in Case of Fire, and subsequently four such premises were issued with the necessary Certificates. 44 inspections were carried out, at which one contravention was found.

Summary of Inspections and Visits

Complaints	169
Public Health Act	236
Re-visits to Premises under Notice—Public Health Act	168
Interviews with Owners, Agents, Builders, etc. ...	576
Work in Progress	304
Insanitary Houses and Rooms	33
Verminous Premises or Rooms	67
National Assistance Act	13
Infectious Diseases	73
Drainage Inspections and Tests	446
Septic Tanks, Cesspools, etc.	29
Camping Sites, Caravans, Tents and Houseboats	86
Stables, Piggeries, Poultry, etc.	28
Factories, with Power	38
Factories, without Power	6
Workplaces	2
Places of Entertainment, etc.	2
Shops Act	257
Schools	8
Foreshores, Streams, etc.	35
Vacant Land and Dumps	41
Common Yards and Passages	6
Swimming Pools	12

Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	3
Rodent Infestations	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dangerous Structures	...	...	...	...	...	50
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	...	...	159

Nuisances Abated and Defects Remedied

Drains Cleared of Obstructions	...	...	...	...	43
Drains Repaired, Reconstructed or Altered	...	...	...	...	51
Drains connected to sewers	...	...	...	...	1
Inspection Chambers Provided or Repaired	...	...	...	...	23
Cesspools Cleansed or Repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Offensive, etc., Accumulations Removed	...	...	...	...	10
Animals—Nuisances Abated	...	...	...	...	4
Dirty Premises Cleansed	...	...	...	...	1
Cellars, etc., Cleared after Flooding	...	...	...	...	2
Contraventions Remedied in Factories, etc.	...	...	...	...	1
Contraventions Remedied in Shops	...	...	...	...	2
Dangerous Structures Made Safe or Demolished	...	...	...	...	4

Section II—Housing

At the end of the year the Housing Manager had 145 (including old people) on his lists of applicants for Council houses, bungalows and flatlets. The number of people awaiting Council houses has dropped slightly, although no houses, except four for slum clearance purposes, have been constructed during the year. The list of old people, which had been rising, has dropped because of the completion of the Orchard Gardens project, where twenty-four single-room flatlets in groups of eight and four three-roomed bungalows have been constructed. In letting the flatlets the Manager has experienced considerable prejudice by the old single person applicants against accepting these dwellings, and twenty declined his offer, but those who accepted, quickly settled in and are very happy in their new accommodation. However, the small bungalows are undoubtedly the most popular units.

This is the third year of the Council's five-year slum clearance programme, which originally listed thirty-four properties as unfit for human habitation in various parts of the Borough. Two additional properties were subsequently added, making a total of thirty-six. It is gratifying to report that the Council has found it possible to speed up the programme, and in fact by the end of the year it had been com-

pleted. Twenty-four properties were closed, four of which were reconditioned and are now re-occupied, and twelve have been demolished.

Private building has gone on apace—thirty-nine new houses were constructed, seven dwellings were converted to provide eighteen units, and three buildings not previously used as dwellings were converted to provide four units.

The demand for loans available through the Council's S.D.A.A. scheme continued, and forty-seven Advances were made during the year, and in addition to these nine Repair Loans were advanced.

There was a marked increase this year in applications for Discretionary Grants, whereby half the cost, up to £400 is obtainable to improve existing houses of sound construction. The necessary inspections and reports required prior to approval are carried out jointly with the Borough Surveyor's Department.

Later in the year, following upon the Government's introduction of its Standard Grants scheme, whereby an owner can obtain a grant towards five essential amenities if they do not exist (i.e. a bath, wash-hand basin, hot water supply, W.C. and food-store), enquiries began to come in, and by the end of the year nine Grants had been approved. All the inspections and reports, etc., required to operate this Scheme are carried out by the Health Department.

The Rent Act, 1957, continued to produce a lot of work, especially for Mr. Jordan. However, it is anticipated that it should ease as the situation regarding increased rents, repairs, etc., becomes stabilised. Since the Act came into operation eighteen months ago ninety-four applications for Certificates of Disrepair, together with the various applications which follow these, have all been reported upon to the Rent Act Sub-Committee of the Public Health Committee, and subsequently dealt with.

A summary of the work done during the year is as follows:

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair

Number of applications for certificates ...	...	11
Number of decisions not to issue certificates ...	...	1
Number of decisions to issue certificates ...	...	11
Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule ...	...	8

Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedules	—
Number of certificates issued	5

Applications for Cancellation of Certificates

Applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of certificates	11
Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	5
Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants' objection	—
Certificates cancelled by Local Authority ...	4

Applications for Certificates as to Remedying of Defects

Number of applications for certificates	
(a) from tenants	5
(b) from landlords	9
Number of certificates issued	14

All complaints concerning housing defects were investigated, and where substantiated an informal repairs notice was served upon the owner or agent, whose satisfactory co-operation in complying was appreciated. It was only necessary to apply to the Public Health Committee for nine Formal Notices as a result of non-compliance with informal notices. Every effort was made to impress upon property owners the desirability of employing reputable builders to carry out their repair work, because specialist knowledge by builders concerning repairs to older buildings is essential in these days of high costs.

Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the Year

(1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	353
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	630

Details of Inspections, Visits, etc.

Complaints	84
Public Health Act	120
Re-visits to Premises under Notice—Public Health Act	190

Housing Acts and Rent Acts	...	...	...	233
Re-visits to Premises under Notice—Housing Acts	...	...	...	87
Interviews with Owners, Agents, Builders, etc.	...	...	...	568
Water Samples	...	...	...	47
Overcrowding	...	...	...	7
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	93

Nuisances Abated and Defects Remedied

Chimneys and Stacks Repaired	...	...	...	2
Ceilings Repaired, Renewed or Provided	...	...	...	12
Dampness Abated	...	...	...	34
Doors Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	38
Eaves Gutters Repaired, Renewed or Provided	...	...	...	18
Fireplaces Repaired, Renewed or Provided	...	...	...	14
Floors Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	11
Roofs Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	27
Rainwater Pipes Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	5
Sashcords Provided or Renewed	...	...	...	20
Stairs Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	1
Ventilations Provided	...	...	...	1
Walls (External) Re-pointed or Repaired	...	...	...	6
Walls (Internal) Repaired	...	...	...	10
Windows Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	16
Water Supplies Provided or Repaired	...	...	...	4
Waste Pipes Cleared, Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	1
Yards and Passages Paved or Repaired	...	...	...	2
New Bathrooms Provided	...	...	...	7
New W.C.'s Provided	...	...	...	9
W.C. Compartments Repaired	...	...	...	11
W.C. Pedestals Provided	...	...	...	16
W.C. Cisterns Provided or Repaired	...	...	...	8
New Dustbins Provided	...	...	...	1

Section III—Inspection and Supervision of Food

There were 351 food premises operating in the Borough at the end of the year, and 534 inspections of these premises were made. Because of the limited time which can be allocated to inspection work, we are dependent to an extent on the active co-operation of shop-keepers, managers and their staffs to adhere to good hygiene standards as required by the Food Hygiene Regulations, and this has again been

evident, and, I think, reflected in the absence of complaints concerning these food premises from members of the public. There is a continuing trend, especially in the grocery trade, towards self-service and large-scale display of commodities, which necessitates the attractive layout of the premises to attract the customer. With the introduction of numerous brands of almost every kind of food proprietors of shops, and especially small general stores, are often hard pushed to provide adequate display and storage space.

Meat Inspection

There are no slaughterhouses within the Borough, all animals being slaughtered and carcasses inspected elsewhere prior to delivery and sale. There has been an increase in the quantity of home-killed meat from mainland sources, and the quality of all the meat in the shops has been very good. Condemnations have been almost entirely confined to imported beef—bone taint being the most common condition.

Five condemnation certificates were issued during the year, and the following quantities of meat were condemned as unfit:—

Meat (Imported)	...	2cwt. 38lb.
Poultry	... ..	20lb.
Fish	... ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ stone

Condemned meat, when the amount warrants it, is disposed of to a factory at Newport for processing into fertilizer.

Condemned Foods

The quantity of tinned and packed foods condemned during the year is set out below. All such food was disposed of at the Council's tip, where it was dumped with the first refuse of the day at the bottom of the tip.

Cooked Meats	...	98lb.
Frozen Whole Egg	...	127lb.
Cake	... ..	38lb.
Custard Powder	...	35lb.
Butterscotch	... ..	$\frac{3}{4}$ lb.
Fruit Creams	... ..	18 pkts.
Fruit Cakes	... ..	4
Meat, Milk, Fruit, Vegetables, Fish, etc.	...	1,166 (998) tins, jars and bottles

Food Analysis

During the year ended 31st March, 1960, the Food and Drugs Authority (I.W. County Council) officials took samples of the undermentioned foods, etc., and submitted them for analysis. Their report is as follows:—

<i>Article</i>	<i>Number taken</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory Composition</i>	<i>Label</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Butter ...	2			
Composition Syrup of Ferrous Phosphate	1			
Evaporated Milk ...	3			
Ice-Cream ...	5			
Instant Coffee ...	2			
Liver Salt ...	1			
Margarine ...	2			
Milk ...	12			
Mustard ...	1			
Pork Sausages ...	8	1	2	2 Preserva- tives not declared 1 Excess fat
Salad Cream ...	1			
Self-raising Flour ...	1			
Slimming Tablets ...	1		1	
Tincture Iodine B.P.	1			
Vita Milk Biscuits ...	1			
	—	—	—	
	42	1	3	
	==	==	==	

Samples of raw milk for biological examination: 54 (All satisfactory).

Samples of heat treated milk for phosphatase test: 27 (2 failed).

Milk Supplies

The number of distributors registered is 24 (23), and all milk delivered is designated and bottled. Nearly all the pasteurised milk consumed locally is “flash” treated in the Newport district, the remainder being treated in a small “holder” plant operated by a local dairyman.

The following registrations and licences were operative during the year.

Registration as Distributor of Milk	...	...	24
Registration of Premises used as a Dairy	...		10
Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested"	...		15
Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised"	...	...	23
Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Sterilised"	...	...	1

Food and Drugs Act, 1955, Section 16

The premises registered under the above Act and Section are:—

Registered for the Manufacture of Sausages and/or Preserved Foods	...	...	...	...	...	26
Registered for the Manufacture, Storage/Sale of Ice-Cream	...	...	...	...	...	139
						<hr/> 165 <hr/> <hr/>

Ice-Cream

Ice-Cream has been as popular a commodity as ever, with a wide range of premises anxious to include it in their sales, and altogether 139 premises are registered for the sale of this desirable food in its many varied forms. In nearly all the premises only wrapped ice-cream is sold, because it is obviously more convenient to do so, and in so doing good hygiene is assured. The standards as required by the Food Hygiene Regulations for these premises are enforced. The three small, well-equipped factories in Ryde have been operated efficiently by their owners, and have been maintained in accordance with standards required.

Bakehouses

There were 16 (16) bakehouses in operation, none of which is underground. Routine inspections of these premises have been carried out.

Licensed Premises

The 63 licensed premises within the Borough have all been inspected during the year, and, except for minor repairs called for, they have been operated in accordance with standards required for food premises. Increased attention has been directed to improving sanitary accommodation in several old licensed houses.

Details of Inspections, Visits, etc.

Complaints	23
Interviews with Owners, Agents, Builders, etc. ...	117
Re-visits to Premises under Notice—Food and Drugs Act	29
Butchers' Shops	14
Fishmongerers and Poulterers	12
Greengrocers	2
Grocers and Other Food Shops	22
Bakehouses	17
Fried Fish Shops	6
Dairies	17
Dairy Farms	8
Ice-Cream Premises	24
Restaurants and Kitchens	62
Food Stalls	6
Food Factories	26
Licensed Premises	56
Hotels	20
Food Enforcement	55
Infestations	1
Miscellaneous	17

Number of Food Premises in which Contraventions Remedied:

Bakehouses	1
Fried Fish Shops	1
Ice-Cream Premises	3
Restaurants and Kitchens	12
Licensed Premises	10
Hotels	4

Summary of Notices Served (Sections I, II and III)

Public Health Act (Informal)	...	...	...	124
Public Health Act (Formal)	...	...	...	9
Housing Act (Formal)	...	...	...	9
Factories Act (Mechanical Power)	...	...	...	1
Shops Act	...	...	...	3
Food and Drugs Act	...	...	...	34

Section IV—Miscellaneous

Additional duties beyond those set out in the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935-51, carried out are as follows:—

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928

During 1959-60, commencing 1st May, 1959, 37 premises were licensed for the storage of petroleum spirit. (Total gallonage: 41,000). 3 additional Petroleum Mixtures stores were approved, bringing the total of such to 11. 72 inspections were made during the course of the year. The law required that by the end of the year all electric pumps should comply with certain standards in respect to flame-proofing, wiring, etc., and it was found early in the year that 17 did not comply. However, all the proprietors had the necessary modifications carried out before the end of the year.

Shops Act—Closing Hours

The Department is responsible for the compliance with “hours of closing” by shops within the Borough, as required by the Shops Act and several operative Closing Orders made by the Council.

Hackney Carriages and Drivers

The local byelaws governing hackney carriages licensed to ply for hire on the Council's stands are administered by the Health Department, and this necessitated 93 inspections of the 35 licensed vehicles.

39 drivers for these vehicles are also licensed by the Council and subject to similar surveillance.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Three premises have been licensed as pet shops, and these have been operated in accordance with their conditions of licence. The Council required the proprietors to supply pamphlets with animals sold, advising on their care.

Lectures, etc.

Co-operation with the I.W. Hospital Board has operated as in recent years. Three Preliminary Training Courses of student nurses received a series of lectures and demonstrations by Mr. Jordan, covering the public health subjects which are included in the S.R.N. examinations.

During the year several talks were given to local organisations on public health subjects.



